



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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NASS publishes small grains county estimates

RICHMOND, Va. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the first of its county estimates today from the 2018 production year. For Virginia, the small grains county estimates includes winter wheat and barley. These estimates are based on farmer-reported information from the Small Grains County Agricultural Production Survey and the September Agricultural Survey.

Northampton County is the leading wheat producing county in Virginia for 2018, with production totaling 697,000 bushels, harvested from 10,500 acres. The top five counties include:

Northampton County – 697,000 bushels
Caroline County – 637,000 bushels
Accomack County – 580,000 bushels
King William County – 532,000 bushels
Westmoreland County – 507,000 bushels

Accomack County had the highest yield at 70.7 bushels per acre. The top five counties for yield include:

Accomack County – 70.7 bushels per acre
Middlesex County – 69.0 bushels per acre
Northampton County – 66.4 bushels per acre
Hanover County – 66.1 bushels per acre
King William County – 65.3 bushels per acre

“The planting progress for the wheat crop got off to a good start in the fall of 2017, and finished ahead of the normal pace,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician.

“During the month of June the crop experienced above average temperatures and heavy precipitation. Producers reported a delayed harvest due to excess moisture from heavy rains late May and early June, as well as standing water in fields. The farmers reported lower yields than last year.

Virginia farmers harvested 9.30 million bushels of winter wheat during the summer of 2018, down 3 percent from the previous year. Yield is estimated at 60.0 bushels per acre, down 6.0 bushels from 2017. Area harvested for grain totaled 155,000 acres. Acres for other uses totaled 75,000 acres.

Westmoreland County is the leading barley producing county for 2018, with production totaling 61,000 bushels, harvested from 800 acres. The top five counties include:

Westmoreland County – 61,000 bushels

Amelia County – 54,800 bushels

Hanover County – 46,900 bushels

Essex County – 42,100 bushels

Rockingham County – 39,500 bushels

Amelia County led with the highest barley yield at 91.3 bushels per acre. The top five counties for yield include:

Amelia County – 91.3 bushels per acre

Hanover County – 90.2 bushels per acre

Westmoreland County – 76.3 bushels per acre

Bedford County – 76.0 bushels per acre

Madison County – 64.2 bushels per acre

“Progress for the barley crop began about normal and finished ahead of normal,” Ellison said. “The barley farmers were not happy with the 2018 crop yield results when compared to the 2017 crop.”

Barley production for Virginia is estimated at 630,000 bushels, down 22 percent from the 2017 total. Average yield per acre, at 70.0 bushels, is down 3.0 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 30,000 acres in 2018, unchanged from last year. Harvested area, at 9,000 acres, is down 2,000 acres from 2017.

“The county yield estimates we publish are used by other USDA agencies, such as Farm Service and Risk Management Agencies,” Ellison said. “FSA’s Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), County Loan Rates, Loan Repayment Rates, and its disaster assistance program calculations all integrate the data from this survey. RMA uses the information for its Area Risk Protection Insurance Plan, establishment of transitional yields, and determining when to make crop loss insurance payments.”

Over the next several months, NASS will release county estimates for corn, soybeans, hay, tobacco, cotton and peanuts.

Corn and Soybeans – Feb. 22, 2019

Hay – April 18, 2019

Tobacco – April 25, 2019

Peanuts – May 9, 2019

Cotton – May 10, 2019

The complete listing of winter wheat and barley county estimates for each county is available online at

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Virginia/Publications/County_Estimates/index.php. For more information, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at (804) 771-8560.

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